1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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175 to Punta Gorda for a proposed railway. The naturalist H. A. Wick-
114 ham lived in Nicaragua (Rio Escondido and Pearl Lagoon) from October, 1867, to June, 1868, in order to collect birds. His ethnographical notes pertaining to the Ulwa are of great interest.

A few years later the French mining engineer, Paul Lévy, traveled on the Mosquito Coast to carry on researches for the Government of Nicaragua. Among the minor contributors to the ethnology of the Mosquito Coast of the nineteenth century are the following: Bovallius, the Swedish zoologist (1881–1883); K. von Girsewald (1892), who spent six months in the gold regions of Pispis; Bruno Mierisch, the government engineer of Nicaragua, who explored the gold regions between Rio Coco and Rio Grande in 1892 and 1893.

In 1900 the celebrated German traveler, Dr. Karl Sapper, who is intimately acquainted with Central America, visited the Miskito and the Sumu living on and about Rio Bocay. The ethnographical specimens collected by him are in the Stuttgart Museum. A collection of ethnographical and archeological material obtained by Doctor Neuhaus around Rio Escondido about this same period is in the Museum für Völkerkunde (Berlin). The German linguist, Walter Lehmann, also investigated these tribes in the course of his voyage to Central America (1907–1909), but unfortunately the ethnographical part of his studies has not yet appeared. The Honduran schoolteacher, Francisco Martínez, also collected interesting ethnological data during his stay at the Sumu village Guampú on Rio Patuca (1916–17). Unfortunately his various contributions have all appeared in local newspapers and reviews of very difficult access.

Finally mention must also be made of the work done by several Moravian missionaries, especially Heath, Grossmann, Reichel, Martin, Ziock, and Sieborger. The books by Schneider and Brindeau are based nearly exclusively upon the investigations of these missionaries.

Since the war the work has been continued by Americans. H. J. Spinden visited Rio Coco and the coast of Nicaragua in 1917–18, and the coast of Honduras in 1923. Dr. A. H. Schultz, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, carried on some anthropological studies on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, examining 25 Rama and 12 Sumu Indians. During the same year (1924) D. E. Harrower, of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, was collecting ethnological specimens during two months among the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE MISKITO

161 The Miskito are estimated at about 15,000, which number exceeds
144 that of all the other Indian tribes of the Mosquito Coast combined. They are largely mixed with Negroes, for which reason the Spaniards have called them "Zambos," meaning Negro and Indian half-breed, a name which is appropriate.

1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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The Miskito readily intermarry with foreigners. They assimilate all races; the children always speak the language of the mother and grow up as Miskito, whether the father be "Creole," "Ladino," Carib, Negro, Sumu, Rama, Paya, North American, European, Syrian, or Chinaman. The villages between Wounta and Rio Hueso show this phenomenon to perfection. (Heath, a: 50.) Consequently the pure Indian tribes, as the Sumu, Paya, and Rama, are rapidly diminishing in numbers, whereas the Miskito, owing to the influx of fresh blood, are holding their own.

In spite of the fact that the Miskito have been since the seventeenth century in contact with buccaneers, British traders, and settlers, mahogany cutters, rubber bleeders, and Moravian missionaries, they have not changed considerably in their mode of life. Their tribal name appears first in the works of the piratical sea rovers, the English calling them generally "Moskite" and "Moskito," and the French "Moustique" and "Moustiquais."

Exquemelin (Engl. ed.: 250; French ed.: II, 264–265) calculates the number of the Miskito at about 1,500 to 1,700, including 200 Negro slaves. In those days they were divided into two subtribes having but little relation with each other. One of them lived at Cabo Gracias a Dios, the other at Moustique (=Sandy Bay?). The Indians from this latter place occasionally accompanied the buccaneer vessels, the others being less courageous on the sea. Dampier states, however, that the whole tribes comprised less than 100 men (Dampier: I, 7). Raveneau de Lussan (437–438), who writes about the same time, says that the Miskito of Cabo Gracias a Dios and lower Rio Coco were largely mixed with Negroes, while those at Sandy Bay were still pure Indians. In 1699 the Miskito occupied the seacoast from Cabo Camarón in Honduras to about 57 miles south of Brangmans River (=Wawa River?), where the territory of the Sumu began. The coast line of their territory had an extension of about 285 miles; they had, besides, two settlements on the lower Rio Coco (M. W.: 299). From the details given by the latter author the total population of this tribe numbered close to 1,000. In 1725 the Miskito numbered about 2,000 men altogether and were ruled by three chiefs (Lade). Bell (a: 250), who lived many years in the country, estimated the total Indian population of that territory at about 10,000 to 15,000, of which the Miskito numbered nearly one-half. The present writer calculates the total number of this tribe at about 15,000, of which at least one-third live on both banks of Rio Coco as far up as Rio Bocay, that is, 275 to 300 miles from the sea. In the Republic of Honduras, from Rio Coco to Rio Tinto, may be found from 3,000 to 4,000 Miskito, who inhabit the seashore and lagoons as well as the lower Rio Patuca. The remainder of this tribe lives in Nicaragua, from Rio Coco to Pearl Lagoon.

1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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In spite of the distribution of the Miskito over so vast a territory, the dialectical variations of their language are comparatively insignificant. Five dialects have been observed by the writer (vide Conzemius, d: 59–64). A small part of the Miskito has kept aloof from admixture with the Negro; these are called *Tōwira* "Heavy-haired."[2] Lehmann (c: I, 105, 107, 464) attempts to connect the ancient Chuchures of Panama with the Miskito, but this theory is barely acceptable. These Chuchures are said to have arrived in canoes from Honduras, and they settled in the neighborhood of Nombre de Dios. But their number gradually declined owing to disease and they finally disappeared altogether.

Many corrupted English words have passed into the speech of the Miskito, while words borrowed from Spanish are much less common. In certain regions, especially on the upper Rio Coco, a large number of Sumu words have been incorporated in the language.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE SUMU

Inland from the Miskito, from Rio Patuca to Rio Punta Gorda, live the more primitive Sumu, who speak a related language. They inhabit chiefly the headwaters of the larger rivers or the affluents thereof. Owing to close intermarriage and lack of hygienic living conditions they are rapidly diminishing in numbers, and the day of their complete disappearance or absorption by the Miskito does not seem far off. Their total number is estimated at about 3,000 to 3,500.

The Sumu are split into different subtribes speaking various dialects which are almost mutually intelligible. These are known by the names *Twahka*, *Ulwa*, *Panamaka*, *Bawihka*, and *Kukra* (vide Conzemius, d: 64–73). The three first named of these subtribes number about 1,000 each, the Bawihka not more than 150, while the Kukra are practically extinct.

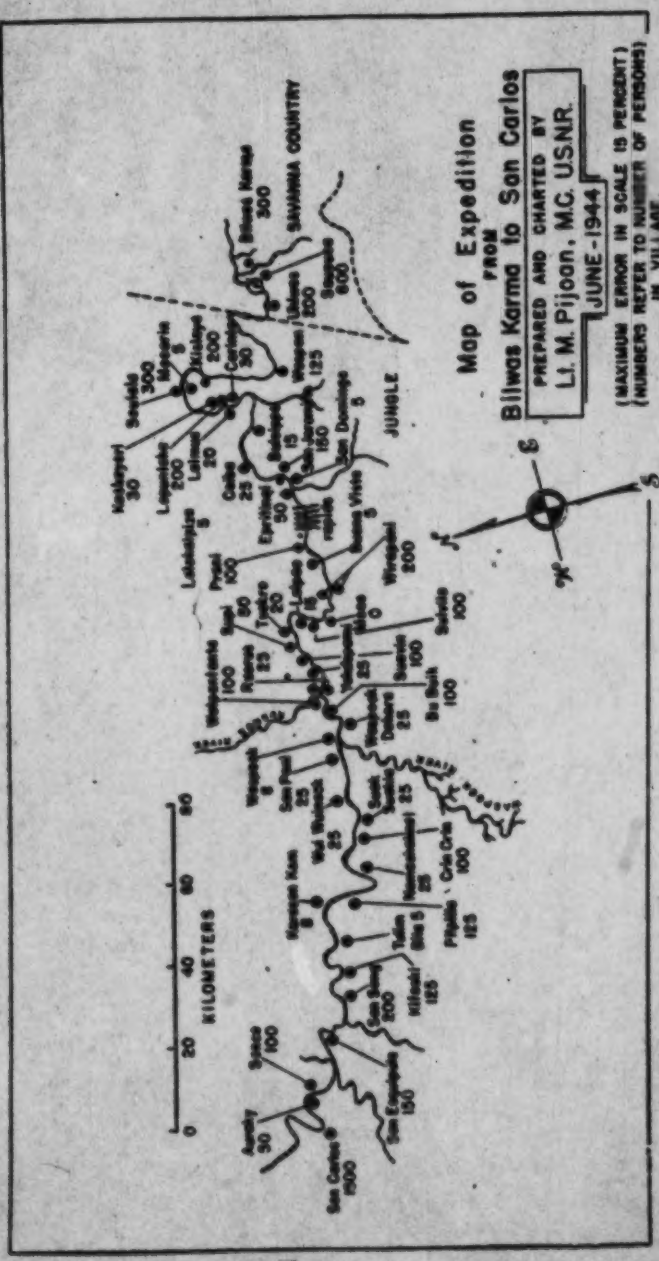
The Twahka inhabit the northern section of the Sumu territory and are found on the rivers Patuca (Guampú), Coco (Lakus and lower Waspuk), Wawa and Kukallaya. The Panamaka live on Rio Coco (Bocay and upper Waspuk) and on Rio Prinsapolca, while

[2] For the pronunciation of the Indian words the following phonetic system has been used:
a, e, i, o, u, correspond to the sounds of these vowels in German or Spanish.
ai as *ai* in "aisle."
au as *ou* in "how."
oi as *oi* in "boil."
ŋ as *ng* in "sing."
x as Spanish *j* or German *ch* in "ach" or Scotch *ch* in "loch."
y is always a consonant.
Nasalization of vowels is indicated by the tilde (~) as in Portuguese.
All the other letters have approximately the same value as in English.

3: Pijoan D-5 (ca. 1945) 1946

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[p.5]

3: Pijoan D-5 (ca. 1945) 1946

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The Miskito Indians, numbering about 20,000, are a mixed race, since there has been much inter-marrying with negroes, creoles, Spaniards, Cariba, Sumu, Syrians and Chinese. About one-half of them have negroid physical characteristics, another third non-specific physical features and a few appear to be of pure Indian blood. There is, however, the same behavior pattern in all of them; they live together and there is no cultural differentiation on a physical basis. The culture and language are predominantly Indian, though some of them speak a little English or Spanish. The name "Mosquito Coast" may have been derived from the Indian tribe, the Miskito, or it may have been derived from the numerous mosquitoes found in the area.

The climate is humid and tropical. The average temperature along the seacoast rarely registers below 65° F. or above 90° F. Such pleasant temperatures are due to the trade winds that blow fairly steadily for about seven months of the year. From Bilwas Karma inland, the heat is intense, humid, and at times unbearable. At higher altitudes near the headwaters of the Coco (or Wanks) River, conditions are less severe. The whole area is well watered by many streams which empty into the larger rivers, which in turn drain into the Caribbean sea. In the jungle area these rivers are the only means of communication or transport. During flood times the rivers rise tremendously, often as much as thirty feet in a single night, the crumbling banks bringing down trees and everything along the edge. For this reason the villages are built high up on the banks and usually some distance from the stream. The average rainfall is reported to vary from 250 to 320 inches a year. There are two dry and two wet seasons each year, but these conditions are only relative, since it is always humid in the interior. The dryest seasons are from about March to May and from late August to early October. The remainder of the time it rains almost incessantly, sometimes all day. In the dry season light showers occur frequently. These geophysical conditions contribute significantly to the food-agricultural status of the people.

Geographically the area can be divided as follows: along the sea-shore it is sandy, with an inland belt of about twenty miles, consisting of swamps; then an area fifty to one hundred miles wide of intermittent savannah, and finally the thick, dense, somewhat impenetrable jungle which covers everything, even the mountains. Violent winds and hurricanes are not infrequent.

Besides the Miskito and the Sumu, two other Indian tribes, the Paya and the Rama, live in eastern Nicaragua. The population of these tribes is unknown, but it is considered to be about 500. Conzemius[1] reported in 1932 that they numbered about 700 but stated that they